

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7886

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 1098

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, TECH, TZ, SF

SUBJECT: SALE OF URANIUM MADE IN US TO SOUTH AFRICA

1. EDITORIAL TODAY (APRIL 15) IN TANGOV DAILY NEWS IS MOST
VIOLENTLY ANTI-AMERICAN I CAN RECALL IN MY NEARLY THREE YEARS
HERE. CAUSE FOR THIS OUTBURST APPARENTLY IS REPORT,
WHICH APPEARED AS NEWS ITEM IN SAME PAPER YESTERDAY, THAT US
HAS GIVEN PERMISSION FOR SALE OF 6.35 KILOS OF ENRICHED
URANIUM TO SOUTH AFRICA THIS YEAR. NEWS STORY FURTHER STATES
US COMPANY QUOTE PLANNED TO SEND ANOTHER 12.7 KILOS UNQUOTE TO
SOUTH AFIRCA AND REPRESENTATIVE LES ASPIN'S COMMENT THAT FIVE
KILOS IS ENOUGH TO MAKE NUCLEAR BOMB. VOA APRIL 14 CONFIRMED
THIS STORY AS WELL AS REPORTING ASPIN'S OPPOSITION TO SALE OF
URANIUM TO SOUTH AFRICA BECAUSE, IN HIS OPINION, SAFEGUARDS
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TO KEEP URANIUM FROM BEING MADE INTO BOMB ARE INADEQUATE.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER VORSTER ON APRIL 7, SAME DAY OAU FONMIN CONFERENCE OPENED IN DAR ES SALAAM, OF SUCCESSFUL BEGINNING OF OPERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S FIRST PILOT PLANT FOR URANIUM ENRICHMENT AT PALINDABA WAS CARRIED IN FULL IN DAILY NEWS APRIL 8. AS NEWS ITEM NOTED QUOTE THE SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENRICHMENT PROCESS GIVES SOUTH AFRICA THE CAPACITY TO BUILD NUCLEAR WEAPONS UNQUOTE. VORSTER'S POINT WAS NOT MISSED HERE. VORSTER'S COMMENTS THAT THE ALTERNATIVE TO SOUTH AFRICA TO WORKING OUT DETENTE WITH BLACK AFRICAN STATES WOULD BE QUOTE DEVASTATING UNQUOTE HAS ALSO BEEN NOTED HERE. IN SUM, NO ISSUE IS MORE SENSITIVE OR EMOTIONALLY CHARGED AT THIS TIME IN AFRICAN COUNCILS THAT SOUTH AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT OF A NUCLEAR CAPABILITY AND THE POSSIBLE USES TO WHICH THAT NEW CAPABILITY WILL BE PUT.

3. REPORT OF US CONTRIBUTION TO SOUTH AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT OF A NUCLEAR CAPACITY HAS BROUGHT FORTH EXPECTEDLY AN EXTREME, EMOTIONAL REACTION FROM TANZANIA. I SUSPECT THAT THE INTENSITY OF FEELING BEHIND THIS REACTION, HOWEVER IT MAY BE EXPRESSED, IS WIDELY SHARED IN BLACK AFRICA. THEREFORE, REQUEST ON URGENT BASIS FOLLOWING:

A) COMPLETE, FACTUAL STORY ON SALE BY US COMPANY OF ENRICHED URANIUM TO SOUTH AFRICA;

B) PRESS GUIDANCE.

4. COMMENT: I CAN NOT RPT NOT SEE HOW GRANTING PERMISSION TO US COMPANY TO SELL ENRICHED URANIUM TO SOUTH AFRICA IS IN ANY WAY CONSONANT WITH THE SECRETARY'S DESIRE, PUBLICLY REITERATED ONLY LAST WEEK TO AFRICAN AMBASSADORS IN WASHINGTON, TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH AFRICAN STATES. CARTER

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